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SPECIAL EDITION

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NEW! Certificate of Settlement Efforts Form in Family Court Motions

Effective May 1, 2012 the attorney or party filing a motion in family court must also file a [Certificate of Settlement Efforts form](#) at least 24 hours before the hearing. Failure to file the form can result in cancellation of the court hearing. The purpose of the form is to tell the judge how the filer has met the requirement to attempt to settle, or why the filer is exempt from the requirement.

You may get questions about the new form from attorneys or self-represented parties. We have added information to the Self-Help Center website to explain the form and settlement requirements at www.mncourts.gov/selfhelp/?page=4628. The "News & Updates" section on the right hand side of our [home page](#) also includes a link to this page.

State Court Administration created the form to meet the May 1 deadline, and posted it in the "Family" category of the MN Judicial Branch [court forms page](#). In the near future, SCAO will work on adding the *Certificate of Settlement Efforts* form with instructions to each Family law motion "packet." Until the form is added to each "packet", self-represented parties are not likely to know about the form.

The form is required by [Rule 303.03 \(c\) of the MN Rules of General Practice – Rules of Family Court Procedure](#).